Exceptions to General Regulations by County

Many water bodies have special regulations that differ from the general regulations for Hook and Line Fishing (Table 2, p. 8), General Netting Regulations (Table 4, p. 10), and Bow and Spear Fishing (Table 5 p. 11). The following is a list of waters, organized by county, with special regulations **that are NOT included in the following sections of the Fishing Guide**: General Regulations tables cited above; Special Northern Pike and Muskellunge Regulations (p. 9-10) Michigan-Indiana Bordering Lakes (p. 11); Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Regulations (p. 12); and Sylvania Wilderness Area Regulations (p. 13).

ALGER: Towes Cr. and W. Br. Whitefish R. from lamprey barrier to signs 500 ft. downstream open to dipping Apr. 1-May 31. Au Train R. to Au Train L. open to burbot netting Dec. 15-Feb. 28. Rock R. closed to fishing from dam to lower foot bridge downstream from M-28 (T47N, R21W, Sec. 15) April 1- June 30. Duck and Echo Lks. (Grand Island) fishing restricted to artificial lures only; live, dead, or preserved baits, scented material, or organic food may not be used; catch and release on smallmouth bass; possession limit on all other species is 5 fish in any combination.

ALLEGAN: Swan Cr. from mouth to dam at 118th Ave. fishing restricted to one single-pointed unweighted hook not more than 3/8" from point to shank; from mouth upstream to diversion dam ("The Tubes", T2N, R14W, Sec. 9) closed to fishing Sept. 1-Nov. 30. **Dumont and Osterhout Lks.** carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

ALPENA: Beaver L. Pike Marsh closed to fishing whenever marsh is in operation. Fletcher Floodwaters carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to spearing all other species.

ANTRIM: Birch L. Pike Marsh closed to fishing whenever marsh is in operation. Intermediate R. closed to fishing from Bellaire Dam to M-88 Bridge April 1-May 14.

ARENAC: Saganing Cr. (upstream from State Rd.) and Pine R. (upstream from State Rd.) closed to fishing Mar. 16 - Friday before last Sat. in April. Au Gres R. and Rifle R. [from end of Steve's Rd., (T19N, R5E, Sec. 9), upstream] are closed to dip netting.

BARAGA: CRAIG LAKE STATE PARK waters (Clair, Craig, Crooked, Keewayden, Nelligan, Teddy, and Thomas Lks.) artificial lures only; northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass must be released, minimum size on walleye is 13", no size limit on other species; possession limit on walleye is 2; otherwise, all general rules apply. Motor boats of all types prohibited on all except Thomas and Keewayden Lks.; Sturgeon R. from Prickett Dam downstream to mouth of Clear Cr. (T50N, R35W, Sec. 12) closed to all fishing Apr. 1- June 30; open to burbot netting downstream from the M-38 Bridge Dec. 15- Feb. 28.

BARRY: Clear and Lower Crooked Lks. carp may be speared May 1- Aug. 15; closed to all other spearing. Prairieville Cr. from the mouth at Gull L. up to M-43 closed to fishing Sept.1- May 31. Williams L. open season is April 1- Dec 15, catch and release only.

BAY: Kawkawlin R. and all tributaries upstream of Euclid Ave., and Saganing Cr. (upstream from State Rd.) and Pine R. (upstream from State Rd.) closed to fishing Mar. 16 through the Friday before the last Sat. in April. On the Saginaw R. upstream from LaFayette St. Bridge in Bay City and all tributaries, the following regulations apply from March 16 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April: unlawful to fish with artificial baits or minnows (except that minnow baits may be used on the Saginaw R. only); natural baits may be fished only on a single-pointed hook with not more than 1/2" between point and shank; weights may not be attached rigidly to hooks; no hook may be attached to the line between any weight and the rod except on an unweighted dropper line at least 3" long; no beads, spinners, or reflectors may be attached to the line within 6" of any hook.

BENZIE: Platte R. restricted to only one single-pointed, unweighted hook no larger than 3/8" from point to shank; closed to fishing within 300 ft. of upper (hatchery) and lower weir all year; closed to fishing from upper weir downstream to Platte L. Jan 1- March 31. **Betsie R.** closed to fishing all year within 100 feet of lamprey barrier and fish passage facility (T25N, R15W, Sec. 2). **Cold Cr.** closed to dip netting.

BERRIEN: No more than 1 walleye 23" or larger may be possessed from the **St. Joseph R.** below Berrien Springs dam to the mouth at St. Joseph/Benton Harbor.

CASS: Corey and Stone Lks., minimum size limit on largemouth bass is 10".

CHARLEVOIX: L. Charlevoix and tributaries to 1/2 mile above their mouth open to hand nets for bowfin, carp, gar, smelt, and suckers, Apr. 1-May 31. Medusa Cr. and area of L. Michigan for a radius of 100' of mouth closed to fishing when weir is in place. Boyne R. from mouth upstream to dam in T32N, R5W, Sec. 5 restricted to one single-pointed, unweighted hook no larger than 3/8" from point to shank. On L. Michigan, within one-half mile of the following islands of the Beaver Island Archipelago; Beaver, Garden, High and Hog (Charlevoix Co.) the open season for largemouth and smallmouth bass is July 1- Dec. 31.

CHEBOYGAN: Cheboygan R., Indian R., or Black R. unlawful to fish during April and May with spear, bow and arrow, dip net, or gaff. Black R. between Kleber Dam and Red Bridge (T35N, R1E, Sec. 5) unlawful to fish in any manner during April and May. Lower Black R. from Alverno Dam down to Mograin Bridge, no fishing Apr. 1-May 15. Black L. and tributaries no commercial minnow take; Sturgeon fishing prohibited except under special lottery permit, see page 10. Douglas L. Pike Marsh closed to fishing when marsh is in operation. Cornwall Impoundment carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Hemlock L. no fishing.

CHIPPEWA: Potagannissing R. from Potagannissing Dam downstream to Maxton Rd. (T42N, R6E, Sec. 15) closed to fishing Mar. 16-May 14. L. Huron and St. Marys R., yellow perch minimum size is 7". Caribou L., carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

CLARE: Budd L., carp may be speared May 1 - Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

CLINTON: L. Ovid, carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

CRAWFORD: Wakeley L. open season June 15-Aug. 31, catch and release fishing with artificial lures; live bait in possession is unlawful.

DELTA: Dana L., carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. **Days R.** from lamprey barrier downstream 500', **Escanaba R.** from mouth upstream to 1st dam, **Ford R.** downstream from Jaeger Rd., **Rapid R.** from Rapid R. falls down to County Rd. S. 15, open to hand nets for smelt and suckers Apr. 1 - May 31. **Whitefish R.** downstream from US-2 walleye season May 15-Feb. 28; possession limit 5, but no more than 1 over 23". **Little Bay de Noc**-north of the Saunders Pt.-Squaw Pt. line and tributaries, spearing is permitted only during Jan. & Feb. **Little Bay de Noc** north of a line from Peninsula Point lighthouse to the mouth of the Ford R.; walleye possession limit 5, but no more than 1 over 23". **Garden Corners Borrow Pit** (T40N, R18W, Sec. 3) and **Rapid R. Borrow Pit** (T41N, R21W, Sec. 34) closed to fishing all year. **L. Michigan** the minimum size limit on splake is 15" on the L. Michigan waters of Delta County.

DICKINSON: Fumee L. County ordinance currently prohibits access for the purpose of fishing. However, the following regulations remain in effect: open season July 1-Sept. 30; catch and release only; artificial lures with barbless hooks only; live bait, dead or prepared bait, organic or processed food, or scented material may not be used or possessed on the waters or shore. **Hamilton, Louise, and Mary Lks.**, possession limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass from the last Sat. in May through June 20 is 0. See also Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations (p.12).

EMMET: Bear R. from mouth upstream to Howard Rd. Bridge (T34N, R5W, Sec. 6) restricted to one single-pointed, unweighted hook no larger than 3/8" from point to shank.

GENESEE: Holloway Res. catch and release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass is Apr. 1-Friday before Memorial Day. Flint R. downstream from the Holloway Dam and all tributaries, the following regulations apply from March 16 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April: unlawful to fish with artificial baits or minnows (except that minnows may be used upstream of Hamilton St. Dam in the City of Flint and all respective tributaries T7N, R7E, S6); natural baits may be fished only on a single-pointed hook with not more than 1/2" between point and shank; weights may not be rigidly attached to hooks; no hook may be attached to the line between any weight and the rod except on an unweighted dropper line at least 3" long; no beads, spinners, or reflectors may be attached to the line within 6" of any hook.

GRAND TRAVERSE: Boardman R. closed to fishing whenever weir is in place from 300' above to 300' below; closed to fishing Sept. 1-Oct. 31 from north Union Street bridge in Traverse City downstream to US-31 Highway bridge. **Unnamed Cr.** closed to dip netting from Green L. upstream to Bridges L.

HOUGHTON: Portage L. Ship Canal spearing permitted in Jan., Feb. only. Portage L. and canal, **Torch L**. for 1/2-mile above mouth open to dip netting Apr. 1-May 31. Sturgeon R. open to burbot netting Dec. 15-Feb. 28.

IONIA: Woodard L. possession limit for walleye is 0.

IOSCO: Au Gres R. from M-65 to mouth dip netting prohibited. Au Gres R. from 50' upstream of Allen Rd. bridge to 500' downstream closed to all fishing Mar. 16 - Friday before last Sat. in April. E. Br. Au Gres R. between MDNR lamprey barrier and Legget Rd. closed to fishing Dec. 1-Friday before last Sat. in April. Au Sable R. from Foote Dam (including the apron) to 175' downstream from the dam closed to fishing all year. Van Etten Cr. from dam at Van Etten L. to mouth at Au Sable R. closed to fishing Aug. 15 -Nov. 30.

IRON: Brule, Chicagon, Chief Edwards, Emily, Paint, Stanley, and Violet Lks., and Paint Pond, carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Stager L. walleye possession limit is one 18" or larger. Winslow L. walleye possession limit is 0. See also Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations (p.12). Chicagon and Ottawa Lks., daily limit of 5 whitefish. Ottawa L. possession of largemouth and smallmouth bass is 0.

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK (phone # 906-482-0984): Michigan fishing laws apply and State license required on L. Superior waters of park. Artificial baits only on inland waters. On L. Superior, within 4.5 miles of Isle Royale, the possession of brook trout is 0.

KALAMAZOO: Austin and Crooked Lks., carp may be speared May 1 - Aug 15; closed to other spearing.

KENT: Campau and Murray Lks., carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Long L. (T10N, R11W, Sec. 31) possession limit for walleye is 0.

LAKE: Baldwin R. from Upper Dam at Old Baldwin Hatchery site downstream to the P.A.S. south boundary fence, including raceways (T17N, R13 W, Sec. 3), closed to all fishing Tues. following Labor Day until the last Sat. in April.

LAPEER: Nepessing L. carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

LEELANAU: Leeland R. closed to fishing Oct. 1 - Nov. 30. North Manitou L. bass miniumum size length is 18", the possession limit is 1; artificial lures only. Florence L. (S. Manitou Is.) artificial lures only. Houdek Cr. closed to dip netting.

LIVINGSTON: Spring Mill Pond (Island Lake Recreation Area) March 15 through March 31 no fishing; Apr. 1 through the Friday before the last Sat. in April, catch and release of trout with artificial lures only; last Sat. in April through March 14 statewide regulations apply. **Whitmore and Woodland Lks.**, carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

LUCE: Twin Lks. minimum size limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is 18", possession limit is 1. Unlawful to launch or retrieve motorized vessel (greater than 5 horsepower) from state land on the E. Branch Fox R. from M-28 to the mouth of Cold Cr.

MACKINAC: Brevort L. carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Les Cheneaux Channels spearing permitted Jan. and Feb. only. Mackinac, Shephard, and Flower Bays closed to fishing March 15-May 14. L. Huron yellow perch minimum size is 7".

MANISTEE: Little Manistee R. 300' either side of weir closed to fishing all year; from 300' above weir to Spencers bridge closed to fishing Jan. 1- March 31; also from 300' below DNR weir to mouth closed to fishing Sept. 1-Nov. 14 and Jan. 1-March 31. South end of Manistee L. (south of a line from red post 110 ft. south of boat launch on east side of lake to a red post near south end of Packaging Corp. on west side of lake), closed to fishing Sept. 6 to Oct. 15 or to when the quota of chinook eggs has been taken.

MARQUETTE: Peshekee R. open to burbot netting Dec. 15-Feb. 28. Deer L. Basin, Carp R. downstream from M-28 (T47N, R27W, Sec. 4), and all other tributaries to Deer L. Basin, possession limit is 0. Fishing restricted to artificial lures, catch and release only; live bait, dead or prepared bait, organic or processed food, or scented materials may not be possessed on the water or the shore. Fish L. carp may be speared May 1- Aug 15; closed to all other spearing; largemouth and small-mouth bass minimum size 18" and possession limit is 1 bass only. Salmon-Trout R., from Lower Falls to mouth closed to fishing Aug 15-Friday before last Sat. in April.

MASON: Pere Marquette R. from 300 feet below lamprey barrier (T18N, R16W, Sec. 21) upstream to Black Cr. closed to fishing when lamprey barrier is in operation. Sable R. (from mouth upstream to Hamlin L. Dam) restricted to 1 single - pointed, unweighted hook no larger than 3/8" from point to shank.

MECOSTA: Muskegon R./Hardy Impoundment from Roger's Dam downstream to below the south-bound lane of US-131 is open to fishing the last Sat. in april through March 15.

MENOMINEE: Big Cedar R. down from mouth of Elwood Cr. (T35N, R25W, Sec. 11) open to dipping, Apr. 1-May 31. See also Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations (p.12). **L. Michigan** the minimum size limit on splake is 15" on the L. Michigan waters of Menominee County.

MIDLAND: Tittabawassee R. between Sanford Dam and mouth of Salt R. and between Dow Dam and Gordonville Bridge, closed to fishing from Mar. 16 through the Friday before last Sat. in April. On the Chippewa, Pine, Salt, and Tittabawassee R. (mouth of the Salt R. to Dow Dam and from Gordonville Bridge downstream) and all their tributaries the following regulations apply from March 16 through the Friday before the last Sat. in April: unlawful to fish with artificial baits or minnows; natural baits may be fished only on a single-pointed hook with not more than 1/2" between point and shank; weights may not be rigidly attached to hooks; no hook may be attached to the line between any weight and the rod except on an unweighted dropper line at least 3" long; no beads, spinners, or reflectors may be attached to the line within 6" of any hook.

MONROE: Huron R. and Stony Cr. (downstream from Finzel Rd., T5S, R8E, Sec. 23) closed to dip netting.

MONTMORENCY: East Fish, West Fish, and Middle Fish Lks., Fuller Cr. Pond, Hunt Cr. above Section Z bulkhead (T29N, R2E, Sec. 25), and Fuller Cr. (in the Hunt Cr. Trout Research Station Area) no fishing. Fletcher Floodwaters and West Twin L., carp may be speared May 1 - Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. North and South Blue Lks. and Robarge L., open season is the last Sat. in April - Sept. 30, catch and release only, artificial lures only.

MUSKEGON: Muskegon L. catch and release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass permitted Apr. 1- Friday before Memorial Day. Mona L. carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

NEWAYGO: Baptist L., possession limit for walleye, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and all bullheads is 0; **Brush and Sand Lks.**, possession limit for channel catfish, flathead catfish, and all bullheads is 0; **Hardy Pond**, catch and release fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass permitted Apr. 1- Friday before Memorial Day.

OAKLAND: Cass, Pontiac, and Kent Lks., catch and release fishing for largemouth and small-mouth bass permitted Apr. 1- Friday before Memorial Day. Heron and Tipsico Lks, carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

OGEMAW: Jewett L. open season is May 15-Sept. 30, and fishing is restricted to artificial lures only and catch and release; permit needed in addition to license.

ONTONAGON: W. Br. Ontonagon R. from confluence with Victoria Hydro tailrace upstream to Victoria Dam is closed to fishing April 1 thru June 10. **Union Springs** closed to all fishing. **Lake of the Clouds** fishing restricted to artificial lures only, no bait of any type may be used or possessed, no spearing, catch and release on smallmouth bass (possession of smallmouth prohibited regardless of where taken).

OTSEGO: Big Bear and Otsego Lks., carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. N. Twin, S. Twin, Lost, W. Lost, Ford, and Section 4 Lks. in Pigeon R. trout Area, no fishing. Otsego L. Pike Marsh closed to fishing whenever marsh is in operation. Otsego L. see sturgeon regulations page 10.

OTTAWA: L. Macatawa, carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

PRESQUE ISLE: Black L. and tributaries no commercial minnow take. Clinton Cr. closed to fishing April and May. Grand L. Pike Marsh unlawful for any person other than state employee to use or operate a motorized vehicle on the access road leading from U.S. 23 to the Grand L. Pike Marsh during March, April, and May. Grand L. Pike Marsh closed to fishing whenever marsh is in operation. Rainy R. from confluence with Black L. upstream to N. Allis Rd. Bridge (T35N, R2E, Sec. 15) closed to fishing April 1- May 14. Shuberts Cr. from Long L. upstream to Clinton Cr. Rd. (T33N, R7E, Sec 14), closed to fishing Apr. 1-May 31. Swan R. from 300' above weir to mouth closed to fishing whenever weir is in place.

ROSCOMMON: Backus Cr. from confluence with Cut R. upstream to Little Mud L. Dam closed to fishing March 23-April 23. Cut R. from confluence with Backus Cr. upstream to outlet at Marl L. closed to fishing March 23-April 23. Houghton L. no spearing. Denton Cr. closed to fishing Mar 23-Apr. 23.

ST. JOSEPH: Big Pleasank and Corey Lks., minimum size limit for largemouth bass is 10". Long L. (Fabius Twp.) carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Sand L., Flathead catfish possession limit is 0.

SAGINAW: On the Bad, Cass, Flint, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Tittabawassee Rivers and all their tributaries the following regulations apply from March 16 through the Friday before the last Sat. in April: unlawful to fish with artificial baits or minnows (except that minnows may be used on the Saginaw R., Swan Cr. and tributaries, and the Bad R. and tributaries upstream from confluence with Pickerel Cr. T10N, R3E, S4); natural baits may be fished only on a single-pointed hook with not more than 1/2" between point and shank; weights may not be attached rigidly to hooks; no hook may be attached to the line between any weight and the rod except on an unweighted dropper line at least 3" long; no beads, spinners, or reflectors may be attached to the line within 6" of any hook.

SCHOOLCRAFT: Thompson Cr. closed to dipping; closed to fishing upstream of US-2 from Sept. 1 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April. Grassy and McKeever Lks., carp may be speared May 1 -Aug 15; closed to all other spearing. Seney National Wildlife Refuge waters have limited fishing; regulations available from Refuge office (906-586-9851). On the BIG ISLAND COMPLEX LAKES of Big Island, Bluegill, Blush, Byers, Coattail, Klondyke, McInnes, Mid, Townline, and Vance, fishing is restricted to last Saturday in April - Nov. 30; artificial lures only; no spearing; bass minimum size limit is 18" and possession limit is 1; perch, bluegill, and pumpkinseed sunfish possession limit is 5 fish in combination. No wheeled or motorized vehicles (including electric or outboard motors). Unlawful to launch or retrieve motorized vessel (greater than 5 horsepower) from state land on the E. Branch Fox R. from M-28 to the mouth of Cold Cr.

VAN BUREN: Dowagiac R. and tributaries above 50th St. and Lake of Woods outlet to confluence of Dowagiac R. open to spears, bow and arrow, and hand net. Bankson, Brownwood, and Round Lks., carp may be speared May 1-Aug 15; closed to all other spearing.

WASHTENAW: Huron R. from Mast Rd. Bridge in Dexter (T1S, R5E, Sec. 32) downstream to Delhi Rd. Bridge (T2S, R5E, Sec. 2) catch and release only on largemouth and smallmouth bass. **Horseshoe L.** largemouth bass possession limit is 1, minimum size is 14"; northern pike possession limit is 1, sunfish (Note 5 p.9) possession limit is 10.

WAYNE: Huron R. from Belleville Dam downstream to mouth closed to dip netting.

Common Terms

Artificial Fly means any commonly accepted single hook wet and dry flies, streamers, and nymphs without spinner, spoon, scoop, lip or any other fishing lure or bait attached. The fly or leader may be weighted but no weight shall be attached to the fly or to the terminal tackle in a manner that allows the weight to be suspended from or below the hook.

Artificial Lure means a manmade lure manufactured to imitate natural bait. Artificial lures include spoons, spinners and plugs made of metal, plastic, wood and other non-edible materials. They also include plastic products made to resemble worms, eggs, fish and other aquatic organisms.

Cast Net means a net not exceeding eight feet in diameter without walls or sides that is thrown to take minnows, alewives, smelt and shad in the Great Lakes and connecting waters.

Daily Limit means the total number of fish, amphibians or reptiles that you are permitted to catch and keep in one day. Also see Possession Limit.

Designated Trout Lake means any lake so designated by the State in which trout are the predominant game fish (Ask for FO-200) and **Designated Trout Stream** means any stream so designated by the State that contains a significant population of trout or salmon (Ask for FO-210). You must have an all species license to fish these waters.

Detroit R. begins at the imaginary line extending due South of the Windmill Point Light, Wayne County and ends at the imaginary East-West line drawn through the most southerly point of Celeron Island.

Dropper Line A line in addition to the main fishing line, that contains a hook. Dropper lines are usually attached to the main line.

FO is a Fisheries Order issued by the DNR Director that implements fishing regulations. FO's can be found online at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Great Lakes Connecting Waters means specific bodies of water in Michigan that connect the Great Lakes. Designated connecting waters are L. St. Clair, St. Marys R., St. Clair R. (St. Clair R. begins at the Ft. Gratiot light) and the Detroit R.

Hand and Landing Net means a mesh bag of webbing or wire, suspended from a circular, oval or rectangular frame attached to a handle. These are the most common fishing nets used in Michigan.

Hook means a single, double or treble pointed hook. A hook, single, double or treble pointed and attached to a manufactured artificial lure shall be counted as 1 hook.

Inland Waters means all waters in Michigan except the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes connecting waters.

Minnows are chubs, shiners, dace, stonerollers, sculpins (muddlers), mudminnows and suckers of a size used for bait in "hook and line" fishing. See page 5.

Possession Limit is equal to the Daily Limit. Except a person may possess up to two (2) additional limits of coho, chinook, or pink salmon taken during previous fishing days provided that the additional limits are processed fish (canned, cured by smoking or drying, or frozen). Anglers who have not attained the age of 17 are entitled to the possession limit even though they do not have a fishing license. A person fishing waters bordered by other states or provinces AND possessing multiple fishing licenses may possess the limit allowed for ONLY ONE license while in transit, but while fishing in Michigan waters, must comply with Michigan possession and size limits.

Snagging means attempting to take fish in a manner that the fish does not take the hook voluntarily in its mouth. It is unlawful to snag fish.

Trapping means to catch or take by use of a device, such as a cage or net, designed to capture a fish or animal.

Weir means a fence or enclosure set in water to block or retain fish.